

REMARKS

This amendment is submitted concurrently with Applicants' Request for Continued Examination in response to the Final Office Action dated April 16, 2004 and further in response to the Advisory Action subsequently issued on September 14, 2004.

As previously discussed, Applicants have amended independent claims 6, 7 and 8. The amendments were made for clarification purposes and as such, Applicants believe that the alleged new matter issue as identified in the Advisory Action has been addressed.

Applicants believe that the amendments are fully supported in the specification. According to the present invention, the differences between pixel values of a noticed pixel and pixels in the proximity of the notice pixel can be compared with each other to detect a boundary line. Then, the pixel values can be weighted based on a positional relationship between the noticed pixel and the boundary line. In this regard, an output changed pixel can be calculated by the pixels in the proximity of the noticed pixel. See, specification, page 4, lines 9-15.

As further illustrated in the specification, values Blend A and Blend B can be utilized to perform weighting. These values include a value that can calculate from the distance between the noticed pixel and an edge and the distance between pixels in an input image. See, specification, for example, page 48-53. Therefore, Applicants believe that the claims as pending are fully supported in the specification and further that the pending claims should be rendered patentable over the cited art of record.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance and earnestly solicit reconsideration of same.

Respectfully submitted,

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